



Interpretation Centre **BATTLE OF VIMEIRO**



BATTLE OF VIMEIRO INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Inaugurated on 21 August 2008 during the commemorations for the Bicentenary of the Battle of Vimeiro, the Battle of Vimeiro Interpretation Centre can be found on the hill above Vimeiro, next to the monument celebrating the 1st Centenary of the battle. Multifunctional in nature, the centre brings together museum exhibitions, archaeological artefacts, period documents and virtual information with emphasis on interactivity. Strategically positioned, the Interpretation Centre provides visitors with an almost complete view of the battlefield.



CONTACTS

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OPENING TIMES AND VISITS

From Tuesday to Sunday

10.00 to 12.00 in the morning and from 14.00
to 18.00 in the afternoon

GUIDED VISITS

With prior arrangement guided visits to the
Permanente exhibition can be scheduled

SHOP

Open to the public with the same opening times
as the Centre. The shop sells a series of products
on the Battle of Vimeiro, books, illustrations,
miniatures etc.

These items can also be delivered C.O.D..



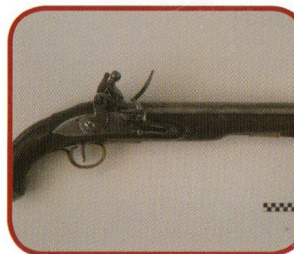
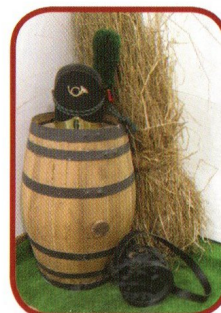
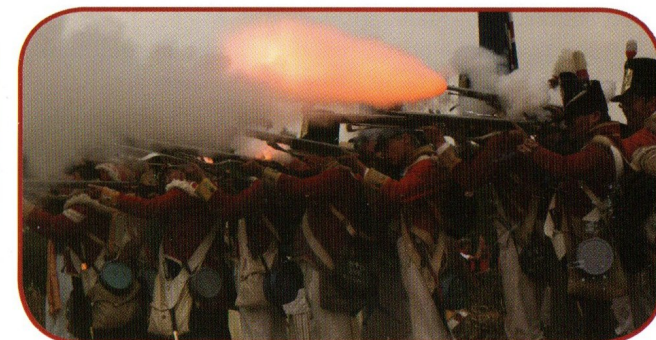
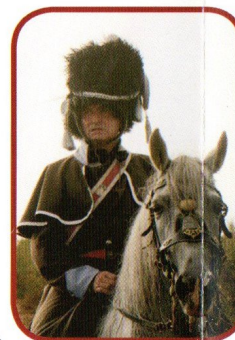
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THE BATTLE OF VIMEIRO

Fought on 21st August 1808, the Battle of Vimeiro was one of great victories in the Peninsular War. Not only did it end the French invasion, which started in 1807, it also saw the defeat of the "so far invincible Napoleonic forces". On 1st August 1808, the English under the command of Arthur Wellesley (future Duke of Wellington) disembarked in Lavos, Figueira da Foz. On 10th August they gathered in Leiria with the Portuguese forces which were under the command of Bernardim Freire de Andrade. The strategy adopted was one of marching quickly to Lisbon along the coast. Arthur Wellesley advanced with his troops with the support of several Portuguese units and Bernardim isolated the powerful forts of Almeida and Elvas, which were held by the French. On 17th August, the first battle of the Peninsular War took place in Roliça, Bombarral, at which the French were defeated. Junot lost close to 2,000 men, including dead, injured and prisoners while the allies lost around 700. Junot was forced to surrender but incredibly managed to achieve very advantageous terms, which were clearly laid out in the famous Convention of Sintra.



RESOURCES / ACTIVITIES

In addition to the exhibition areas, the Interpretation Centre also has a superb view of the battle field. It is also the starting point for the walk On the Path of the Battle of Vimeiro (PR3), a route which covers the most interesting aspects of the battle. (Route Leaflet)

The BVIC also houses a library especially equipped for researchers and students with period publications and works of reference to assist in the study of the Peninsular War, military archaeology, the Napoleonic period etc.

In Vimeiro it is also possible to find a number of buildings which were used for the battle, and several acted as headquarters for the Luso-British officials. Another point of interest is the statue of a soldier of the Peninsular War which "guards" the entrance to the town, in a tribute to the sacrifice of the many unknown soldiers.

